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9 August 1990

Dear Cowboys and Friends of the Ranch:

Happy 25th!



Oops, there goes another rubber tree!

Reunion 1990:

Twenty-five years ago this year veterans of the Ranch decided to hold a reunion. That first round-up was held at the Randolph AFB Officer's Club. We were younger and livelier then; hence we were told to never return to the club at Randolph!

This year we celebrate the 25th annual reunion on the weekend of 5, 6 and 7 October at the Ramada Inn on Okaloosa Island. Do not call the Ramada for reservations. Please call Marilyn or Jack Spey at 904-243-5696 for info/reservations. We will take care of your needs. This is necessary so an accurate head count for meals/rooms, etc. can be effected (single point of contact concept). You'll receive a copy of events when you check in at the Ramada's front desk. From calls received so far, this should be a great Round-Up. Finalize your plans now and call 904-243-5696. This is the final notice!

News of Cowboys Around the World:

Howard M. (Howie) Clark, Wippany, NJ: Howie visited FWB, FL while in simulator training at Duke Field (May 90). He's flying corporate jet service as well as his service with the AFRES. Thanks Centurion.

Jack Brennecke, Hurst TX: Jack couldn't make the '89 Round-Up but will be here this October.

Thomas A. Barrett, Green Lake, WI: Thanks for the new address Tom.

Robert E. (Gene) Marshall, Rockwell, TX: Gene retired from the active Reserve this year and he and Pat plan to make the 25th reunion in October. Thanks Centurion!

Leo J. Ganon, Phoenix, AR: A new Centurion, but no words! Thank you sir.

H. D. "Dill" Mullis, Artic Slope Regional Corp., Anchorage, AK: Dill writes: "I will, however, most assuredly never forget many individuals, the 'compadreship', and basically good times experienced while a member of a damn fine outfit -- the Ranch Hands." Thanks Centurion. It's a tough road by dog sled, but mush to FWB soon. Thanks Dill.

Neil G. Stroud, North Highlands, CA: No words from Neil, but a \$100 donation. Thanks Centurion!

Dick Duckworth, Ft. Worth, TX: Dick is also a new Centurion, and he passed along nice words for Paul Cecil's book "Herbicidal Warfare" about Operation Ranch. (Dick send me the film.)

Joseph H. Brooks, San Diego, CA: Just a change in address.

Joe C. Boyer, Crossett, AR: Col. Joe heads a life insurance office in Crossett and plans to make the 25th Round-Up this October.

Lloyd Hammerstrom, Grand Forks, ND: Lloyd sent some great film that was transposed. Good stuff Tooker.

Troyce Smith, Arlington, TX: New address for Troyce.

Don "Blue Max" Maxwell, APO 09012: Don sends his best to all.

Bob Rand (flight engineer '68), Hawley, PA: New address for Bob.

Howard F. Bowles, Newton, CT: Howard sent some great film of the Ranch. Thanks Howard.

Lloyd A. West, Marysville, WA: Lloyd and his wife are still in the travel agency business in the Seattle area. "Just ask Mr. Foster."

Charles O. Mapes, Bellevue, WA: Address change for Charlie.

Steve Aigner, Trumbull, CT: Steve and his wife Martha are returning to the states after 12 years as expatriates in Saudi flying for Pan Am. They have already planned to join the other Cowboys in FWB, FL on 5/6/7 October. Thanks Centurion.

Jack N. Davidson, Shelton, WA: Jack is medically retired after a fall at work, but is hanging tough. Stay in touch Jack.

Charlie Hubbs, Shalimar, FL: Charlie & Beth, escaping from VA for a slower paced life, have built their "dream home" in Shalimar and boy are we ever glad to have them as neighbors.

John R. Thomas, St. Petersburg, FL: For the past 15 years John has been sailing for Sheridan Transport Co, Phil. PA. He's currently sailing as first mate and usually is "out to sea" at reunion time. I have an idea that Marlene will drag a "seagoing" Centurion to a Round-Up soon. Thanks Centurion!

Eugene Riley, North Pole, AK: No words, but Eugene joined the ranks of a Centurion. Thanks Gene!

John Stipetich, Yokohama, Japan: John flew C123's then OV-10's in Vietnam, and currently is flying as Captain for a Japanese airline. Stay in touch John. See you in October.

Alan Tremaine, APO 09012: Al is Billeting Officer at Ramstein, AB, Germany and hopes to PCS to Tyndall AFB, FL in two years. (July '66-July '67 TSN and Bien Hoa)

Dick Slay, Melbourne, FL: Dick hopes to be here in October and sends his best to all.

Dennis L. Isenbarger, Dover, DE (Ranch 67-68): Dennis got out of the USAF and went to work for Civil Service - working on C-5's at Dover. Thanks Dennis!

Robert A. Sanders, Fairbanks, AK: Change of Address for Bob.

Raul Gamboa, Fresno, Ca: No words this time but \$50 to the kitty. All our thanks to our postman in Fresno.

Jose C. Gonzales, M/Sgt(RET), Phoenix, AZ: Jose sends his best to all the Cowboys.

Ed Kraft, Lancaster, PA: Ed's son ED III is flying B-52's out of Carswell and doing well with his wife, a 1/LT intel officer, and a new son Mitchell. Now that's a "Blue Suit" family of the first order! Thanks Ed.

John Kostynick, Levittown, NY: Any Cowboys thinking of burning up the town in NYC better watch out. John has recently been promoted to Captain in the NYC Fire Department. Thanks John!

Brad Eliot, Scottsdale, AZ: "...I thought it's about time I become a Centurion." Thanks Brad!

Maj. General John T. Stihl, Camarillo, CA: Gen. Stihl and his wife Cathy are planning to join us this October at the 25th round-up. Thank you Centurion!

Lt. General Claudius T. Watts, III, Charleston, SC: The Citadel's No. 1 continues to fight for the Cowboys, both in the Ranch and elsewhere. Thank you again Centurion!

The editor regrets that the letters from Chris Doerr, Linwood Wright and Jason Steeprow were lost during draft prep, and I apologize to them.

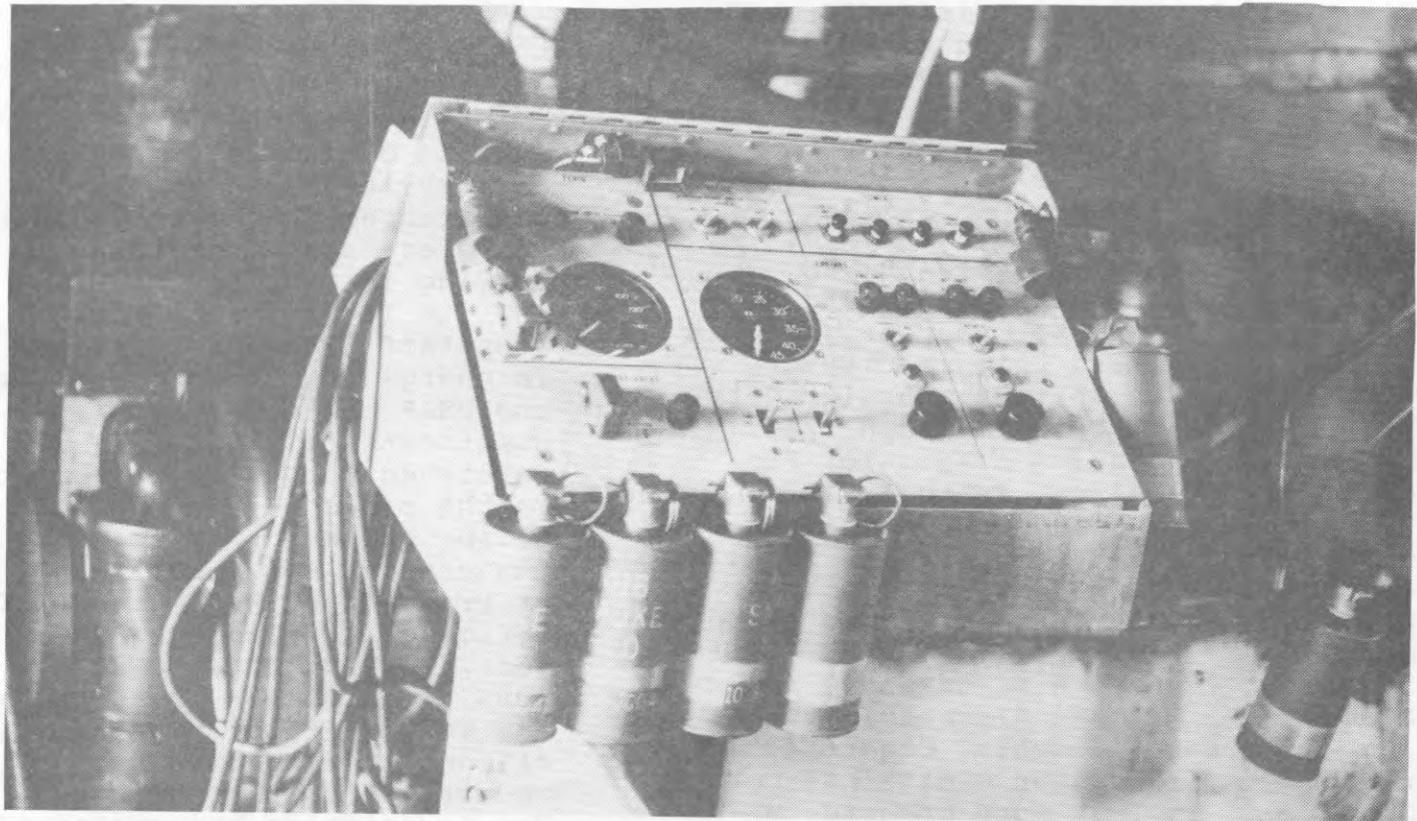
The Air Force Health Study:

In May of this year each of us should have received an executive summary and an abstract of the conclusions resulting from the 1987 physical examination administered by the Scripps Research Foundation in La Jolla, CA.

As in the previous morbidity examination, Science Applications International, Corp., Scripps Clinic and Research Center, and the National Opinion Research Center found relatively few health differences, and none of major medical relevance when comparing Cowboys and our comparison group. Minor statistical differences were observed. The only significant medical difference was an increase in basal cell skin cancer, often associated with sun exposure and easily treatable. No increases were evident in the occurrence of systemic cancers (serious cancers). The higher frequency of this cancer will be studied more closely as the Health Study continues.

Most of us also received a letter from the School of Aerospace Medicine (Dr. Wolfe) providing us with our current body burden of dioxin in parts per trillion. As the Air Force Health Study has progressed over the past 9 years, science has progressed as well, and the Centers for Disease Control can now measure dioxin content in anyone's blood. It is no surprise that Ranch Hand personnel as a group have more of this chemical in our blood than that of our comparison group. It is also important to note there is currently no known relationship between human health outcome and dioxin levels of this minute amount.

A small number of the Ranch and Comparisons were not informed of their individual dioxin level due to quality control problems with blood samples in transit, contamination in handling, laboratory problems, etc. For those of us in that category it's back to the Vampire Room in '92!



The "box" - sometimes a helluva place for FE's.

Centurions:

When Rome controlled the politics and the economy of the then known world, the Centurion commanded 100 good men supporting the Empire and its cause. Over the years, Operation Ranch Hand has had its Centurions, those contributing \$100.00 or more in a single contribution. The Centurions as of 15 July 1990 are:

Commander: Paul Knese

Steven A. Aigner	Jack Gentry	Ed McGee
Bill Aldrich	Hank Good	Mick Mikolasy
Dick Alexander	Frank Griffin	George M. Miller
James Arthur	James (Geech) Hamilton	Roger Meekins
Chuck Avery	James Hancock	Ed Mucho
Jim Bassett	Robert Hanson	H.D. (Dill) Mullis
Ed Blaufuss	Lee Harrison	Russ Mohney
Joe C. Boyer	Charlie Hubbs	Stan Nelson
John Brady	Col. Carl D. Hughes	Dick Peshkin
Ken Bramble	Lee Inman	James (Pooch) Pochurek
Miles Burgenheim	Burton M. Kellogg	Don Rayment
Paul Cecil	James Kelly	Eugene Riley
Howard M. (Howie) Clark	Ronald Kempfer	Bud Robinson
Peter J. Clark	Bill Knothe	Gary Runey
Gerald J. Cornell	Jack Langhorne	Carl M. Schelin
Bob Cruts	George Lathrop	Hugh L. Scott
Ed Dabbert	Vito Longo	James Slay
Robert Dennis	Col. Robert Marshall	Pete Spivey
Richard D. Duckworth	R.E. (Gene) Marshall	Maj/Gen John T. Stihl
Jon Dudenhoeffer	Gerald Martin	Rex Stoner
Robert Dyer	Donald J. Maxwell	Neil G. Stroud
Rolf Eagleson	Charles Meadow	James L. Tanner
Brad Eliot	Dick Meadow	John R. Thomas
Ted Encke	Lawrence McCarthy	Hal Underhill
Art Erickson	Art McConnell	Lt/Gen Claudius E. Watts
Leo J. Gagnon		

The Last Rancheros:

CSMGT Arnold E. Hansen, Grand Forks, ND
LT/COL Richard D. Tebay, Xenia, OH
MSGT Merrill W. Archambault, Glendale, AZ
COL David V. Nowlin, Woodbridge, VA
TSGT James A. Harris, Moreno Valley, CA
TSGT Robert A. Clark, Browns Mills, NJ
LT/COL Francis E. Walker, Prattville, AL
LT/COL Joseph R. Wolozyn, Mount Holly, NJ
COL Edward T. White, Fort Worth, TX
MSGT John D. Bodine, Robins AFB, GA
MSGT Larry J. Johns, Rapid City, SD
SMSGT Ronald R. Rocheleau, Dover, DE
COL John E. Poast, APO Miami, FL
MAJ Linwood L. Wright, Grissom AFB, IN
MSGT John W. Smiley, Grand Forks AFB, ND
COL William M. Rodgers, Pope AFB, NC
SMGT James Walker, Altus, OK
SMSGT Edward J. Groff, Tucson, AZ
SGT Tommy D. Gaines, Ellsworth AFB, SD
COL Arthur G. Ericson, Summerville, SC
MAJ Delbert D. Harris, San Antonio, TX
SMSGT James D. Neal, Minot AFB, ND
MAJ Jesse D. Humberd, Langley AFB, VA
COL Woodrow Wilson, Wright-Patt. AFB, OH
CMSGT Gerald Walker, Leisure City, FL
LT/COL Leonard S. Spitzer, Bossier City, LA
LT/COL Jimmy P. Thrash, APO San Fran., CA
CAPT Paul D. Parham, San Antonio, TX
TSGT Teddie L. Nelson, Rantoul, IL
LT/COL Robert L. Slaughter, Wichita Falls, TX
MSGT Donald W. Whitaker, APO New York, NY
MAJ John A. Stroup, Aurora, CO
SMSGT Lloyd F. Hammerstrom, Grand Forks, ND
SMSGT Leon Brown, Peru, IN
COL John M. Carney, U.S. Embassy, APO NY
COL Donald R. Ritter, Alexandria, VA
LT/COL William G. Yoachim, Clearfield, UT
COL Thomas A. Stevenson, Omaha, NE
MSGT Carl L. Talley, Port Orchard, WA
LT/COL Stephen D. Howell, Anchorage, AK
LT/COL Richard N. Galloway, Lubbock, TX

The Last Rancheros - on Active Duty:

As of 1 June 1990, forty-one former members of Operation Ranch Hand were still on active duty. These guys are the last of the great Cowboys still wearing that Blue Suit. They deserve a job well done! The last one will receive a special prize from the Association.

The Enlisted Experience:

The Office of Air Force History in Washington is researching the history of the Enlisted Corps from those serving in the USAF from 1939 to 1973. Capt. Mark Granstaff (202-404-7321) is in charge of this project for the USAF. A comprehensive questionnaire will be furnished to those interested in the project. Contact the Senior Enlisted Advisor at the closest Air Force base, or write Capt. Mark Granstaff, Office of AF History, Bldg. 5681, Bolling AFB, DC 20332-6098. (This is a great project and worthy of our participation. All enlisted Cowboys are encouraged to participate.) The Association has copies of the questionnaire also; just write if you need one.



No one offered a guess as to the last mystery Cowboys. They were Sgt. Miller and Sgt. Bassett with Patches (1964).

Name this Cowboy!

Contributions:

For the past 25 years the Association has stayed together and maintained the comradery of the Ranch, as well as building a fitting Ranch Memorial, all on voluntary contributions from Cowboys and Friends. After this newsletter there will be \$1,550 remaining in the fund, some of which has been traditionally used to defray reunion costs. The Association needs our financial support. Small amounts buy stamps as well. Enough said!

Well Cowboys, the gear pins are installed, mixtures are idle cut off and chocks are going in place. Time to - Battery - "Off".

Call now for reservations on 5, 6 and 7 October: 904-243-5696.

To the Ranch!

Jack Spey
Jack Spey, President
Ranch Hand Vietnam Association



OFFICERS

President - Major Jack Spey, USAF (RET)
Vice President - Lt. Col. Art McConnell, USAF (RET)
Secretary - Major William (Mick) Mikalasy, USAFRES
Treasurer - TSgt Earle Briggs, USAF (RET)
Historian - Lt. Col. Paul Cecil, USAF (RET)

DIRECTORS

Maj. Gen. Russ Mohney, USAF (RET) Chairman
Col. Ralph Dresser USAF (RET)
Lt. Col. Charlie Hubbs USAF (RET)
Lt. Col. Art McConnell USAF (RET)
Lt. Col. Rex Stoner USAF (RET)
Lt. Col. Pete Spivey USAF (RET)
SMSgt. Pappy Rothermel USAF (RET)
MSgt. Lee Harrison USAF (RET)
MSgt. Al Nicolas USAF (RET)
TSgt. Keith Yale USAF (RET)
Mr. Mike Shuppert

8 November 1990

Dear Officers and Directors:

Your opinion, consideration and vote is sought to have the Ranch Hand Vietnam Association donate \$150.00 to the Air Force Armament Museum Foundation in order to retire the debt incurred by them in obtaining an SR-71, Tail #959, for permanent display at the Armament Museum, Eglin AFB. (The aircraft arrived by truck convoy and will be rebuilt, painted and officially dedicated on 27 November 1990.) This aircraft will make an already great museum - sensational!

If you concur with a \$150 donation, the Association would become a Line Chief in the 959th Support Wing. We currently have \$2,300.00 in the bank after spending approximately \$1,000.00 for the past reunion.

Enclosed is a museum flyer, ballot and a return envelope.

We have in the past supported the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson, and funded the Ranch Hand memorial here at Hurlburt Field. I personally think it's a great project and worthy of our consideration.

Sincerely,



Jack Spey, President
Ranch Hand Vietnam Association

Enclosures: 1) Museum flyer
2) Ballot
3) Return envelope

Ranch Hand Vietnam Association
850 Tarpon Drive
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548